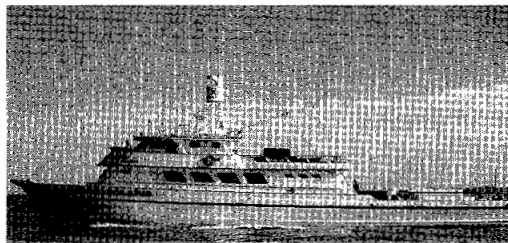


TA

2838 GARRISON STREET
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92106
Telephone (619) 226-8030 Fax (619) 226-8092
www.royalpolaris.com

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL
WATER QUALITY
CONTROL BOARD

2005 JUN 13 P 12:42



ROYAL POLARIS

June 9, 2005

San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board
Attn: Chairman Minan
9174 Skypark Ct Suite 100
San Diego, CA 92123-4340

Re: **San Diego Bay Sediments Clean-up**

Dear Chairman Minan:


I am writing regarding your recommendation that NASSCO, Southwest Marine, and other shipbuilders pay to fully remove toxic sediments they have discharged into San Diego Bay over several decades. My livelihood is closely tied to this bay; as owner of LoPreste-Dunn Sportfishing, Fisherman's Landing, and Pt. Loma Sportfishing, as a resident on the bay front, and as a father and grandfather who takes his family fishing in the Bay.

I have concerns about the levels of toxicity in the Bay in the present day – it bothers me that I have to worry about my health if I eat fish from the Bay, or that I have to wonder about whether it's safe for my grandchildren to play in the water with high levels of PCBs and other chemicals. But, more serious, I am frightened by what we are leaving for future generations. I want my children and grandchildren to grow old with a Bay that they can play in safely.

In the sportfishing fleet, we often clash with environmentalists that challenge our livelihoods and compromise our ability to do business. But, we have also learned from them. Over the years, we have changed many basic practices on our boats that used to contribute to the polluting of our oceans. Now, we maintain a certain ethic of stewardship toward the ocean. It gives to us, and, in turn, we respect its fragility and work to safeguard its future.

It is clear to me that shipbuilders must do their part to clean up the mess they have made. They have earned billions of dollars on the bay front without appropriately discarding the toxics that result from ship refurbishing and construction. They have given much to San Diego, but it's critical that they give back what they have taken from us – A healthy Bay.

Thank you for considering my comments.


Frank LoPreste